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576***INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) DATE DISTR. 4 AUG 50
 SUBJECT Political Officers' School in Potsdam NO. OF PAGES 2
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LISTED BELOWSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

- 25X1X In the former Wehrmacht base at Kirschallee in Potsdam-Bornstedt is located (in addition to an officer training school) a special school for training Soviet officers for political work in Soviet Zone army units. This school is giving the so-called "Kursy Politika"; [REDACTED] It was organized [REDACTED] Re- 25X1X
 25X1C 25X1X between then and [REDACTED] the school trained, or rather, "passed through the mill" many battalion and regimental deputy commanders for Party work and also battalion and regiment Party organizers ("Partorgi").
2. This school was reorganized [REDACTED] as a result of secret directive No. OI issued [REDACTED] by GPU/VS (Main Political Directorate of the Armed Forces) and ordering that deputies of company COs be trained for political work.* The course now given lasts 2 months and is dedicated to thorough study of (a) History of the Russian CP, (b) International Politics, and (c) Political Work in the Soviet Armed Forces. The study is topped with 5-day written and oral examinations during which time all students are confined to the schoolrooms and to their barracks.
3. Students are all party members. The first class (1 March - 1 May) graduated 300 officers. The present class (1 May - 5 July) consists of 600 officers. The third (1 July - 1 September) and the fourth (1 September - 1 November) will consist of 600 and 300 officers, respectively. The school has also a special class consisting of 120 sergeants who are given a preparatory course prior to the 2-month advanced course. They started their study [REDACTED] and will graduate as Jr. Lts. [REDACTED] They will not return to the units from which they were recruited, but will be sent to new and reorganized units.
4. The same GPU/VS Directive No. OI applies also to army units in the Soviet Union. 25X1X

- 25X1X COMMENT: [REDACTED] not certain whether the interpretation of GPU/VS Directive No. OI is that the newly-instructed "Deputy Company Commanders for Political Work" ("Zamestiteli Komandirov Rot po Politichasti") will also have tactical command of troops, al-
 25X1X though they are not officers. The reason for the new order is: "a) to educate members of all Soviet army units

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25X1A

to hate the American capitalists and their army and b) to keep the Soviet officer corps loyal: in the event of war the political officers can, where necessary (?), replace their commanding officers." This seems to indicate that the Soviet Union is preparing the ground for possibly reverting to its old system of direct control of army units by the political officers.

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